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and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

LAMBDA CENTER

Lambda Link

Your Connection to the Lambda Community Center

May - June 2004 Volume 1, Number 2

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This Year's Lambda Freedom Fair Will Be The Very Best Ever!

Our 20th Annual Lambda Freedom Fair will be on Saturday, June 5, 2004 at Southside Park from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Lambda Freedom Fair is the oldest and largest LGBTI pride event in Sacramento and it is our largest fundraiser. Moneys raised from the Fair will support our on-going operations of providing resources and programs to our community. This includes our Men's and Women's Coming Out Groups, Men's and Women's Discussion Groups, our Youth Groups, and all our other functions.

One of the missions of the Lambda Freedom Fair is to commemorate the Stonewall Riots. This year is the 35th anniversary of that historic event. A timely topic is the civil rights issue of same-sex marriage. Thus, the theme of this year's Fair is From Stonewall to Marriage. The new Rainbow History Tour – A Walk Through LGBT History – provides information of LGBT history concentrating on the past 35 years.

This year is going to be a lot of fun. We are going to have over twenty new vendors, an expanded kids area – sponsored by Sierra Adoption Services, the park's swimming pool will be open from noon to 4:00 p.m. (and included in the admission fee), and CGNIE will be operating our always wonderful Beer Garden!

Our family-friendly Fair will have a Kid's Stage, this year, with entertainers especially for them. We will have face painting, Noah's Ark Playground, a painting wall, balloon animals, Dudley the Dinosaur Slide, a bounce house, many Carnival Games, and a 36-foot tall Space Shuttle Slide.

We also have a big surprise waiting for you – we will be unveiling our new logo. As a symbol of the newer, bigger, better Lambda Community Fund, we have a new logo. From now on, you will see our new logo on everything we do. If it doesn't have the new Lambda logo on it, it doesn't come from Lambda!

For information on our entertainment and other attractions, please go to our website at www.lambdasac.org.

New Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of ***Lambda Link***, your connection to the Lambda Community Center. We got a great response after our first edition in March. As always, any comments or suggestions on how to improve our newsletter or make it more useful to our community are welcome.

Lambda Link can be found in many LGBT businesses in Sacramento and can be downloaded from our web site at lambdasac.org. If you would like to receive it in the mail, please add your name to our mailing list on our website or call (916) 325-1842, option 4.

Lambda's Fireworks Stand

The Lambda Community Fund will be having a fireworks stand for this year's July 4th. It's only natural that the folks that bring you the Freedom Fair would also bring you Freedom fireworks!

Our Fireworks Stand will be on 16th Street near R Street (across the street from the Light Rail Station) from June 28th to July 4th. We will have sparklers, fountains, and every one of your favorite July 4th firework! All proceeds go to the support the great work being done by the Lambda Community Fund.

You can buy coupons for fireworks at the Information Booth at the Freedom Fair. Tell your friends about our Fireworks Stand. Firing off Lambda Freedom Firework fires up our community!

Capital Campaign in Building Stage

We announced in the last issue that the Lambda Community Center would be moving in about a year. We have really outgrown our home in a big way. We have to turn down groups and organizations that would like to meet here because we're booked up, or our meeting rooms are too small, or most of rooms are not wheelchair accessible. Some of our groups have grown tremendously.

We are in the planning stages of a Capital Campaign to raise the necessary funds to find, renovate, and move into a new home. We will be announcing this campaign at our upcoming Lambda Freedom Fair on June 5th. This is going to be a formidable task! But it is something that must be done. We owe it to everyone in our Sacramento Valley LGBT community. With an area population of about 3 million, we have an LGBT

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Lambda Award Winners

We had a fantastic evening on Monday, May 3, 2004 at the DoubleTree Hotel. Our emcees, Paul Curtis (Board President of CARES) and Darla Givens (NEWS 10), did a splendid job of keeping it fun.

The Lambda Community Fund is proud to announce the winners of the 11th Annual Lambda Awards:

Most Improved Youth: Crown Prince Royale Robert Long

Board President Bill Snyder with Katie Loncke, and Award Presenter JG Gonsalves

Bayard Rustin: Katie Loncke

Youth Community Spirit: Caitlin Bourne (see Caitlin's story back page)

Bill Snyder with Jack Maple, and Award Presenter Gina Luedemann

William Knudsen: Jack Maple

Community Backbone: C.G.N.I.E.

Bill Snyder with Alice Wong and Award Presenter, Marghe Covino

Building Bridges: Deputy District Attorney Alice W. Wong

Volunteer of the Year: Jason R. Kirkland (our Lambda Awards Chair and Lambda's Volunteer Coordinator)

Fighting AIDS: Janet Pacheco

Bill Snyder with Captain Rich Shiraishi and Award Presenter Chief of Police, Albert Najera

Profiles In Courage: Captain Rich Shiraishi of the Sacramento Police Department

Gail Lang Arts and Culture Lifetime Achievement: Gail Lang

Bill Snyder with Tina Reynolds

Gail Lang Arts and Culture: Tina Reynolds

Sloan Founder's: The Stonewall Democratic Club of Greater Sacramento

Bill Snyder with Gayiel Von and Award Presenters, Dr. Sonney Chong and Jerry Chong, Esquire

Timothy Warford: Gayiel Von (Our most recent past president)

The Lambda Community Fund would like to give a great big thank you to everyone involved with the awards; our chairs and volunteers, the performers, our presenters, and our recipients. They really made the event fun and memorable for everyone there.

We look forward to seeing everyone next March 2005 for the 12th Annual Lambda Awards.

Capital Campaign

Continued from page 1

population of about 300,000 people. We currently serve this population out of a building with 3 meeting rooms and 2 cramped offices.

We are asking Sacramento's LGBT community to step forward and help in this worthy goal. We have a big need for contractors, architects, and other qualified people to join our Building Committee and, of course, for experienced people to join our Fundraising Committee.

Our biggest need, however, will be for everyone in the LGBT community to help out with a donation. We'll have an organized campaign soon. Please think about what you can do to help. Every dollar donated helps all of us. We are not some faraway charity that does good deeds for faraway people. We are here in Sacramento. We help local people everyday. People with LGBT concerns come to the Center here in Sacramento for help or assistance. Your donation will help to increase services to these local people.

We want to invite anyone in the community who can help us reach our worthy and necessary goal to join us. If you can help, please contact Bob Brodie, our Executive Director, and (916) 442-0185, ext. 101 or email him at execdir@lambdasac.org.

Help us build a bright future for Sacramento!

Donate Your Car

Want to get rid of that old car of yours? Donate your car to the Lambda Community Center and help us continue our work. You will be supporting our groups and all who come thru the door. We have teamed with donateacar.com to accept donations of automobiles. Your car doesn't even have to be in working order. You can contact donateacar.com through their website or by calling toll free 1-800-513-6560.

You can donate to the Lambda Community Fund in several other ways including: registering and using your Albertson's Card in their Community Partners program, shopping through iGive.com, give to us through the United Way, in-kind giving, and, of course, cash donations. For more information, please call us at (916) 442-0185 or go to our website at www.lambdasac.org.

You can also give to the community through volunteering. We are always looking for volunteers to help at the Center. As we continue to grow, so does our need for more need for volunteers. You can get a volunteer form at the Center or online on the website.

LAMBDA GROUPS & PROGRAMS

***Café Lambda** – Friday and Saturday nights, 9:30 - midnight*

***Circle of Friends NCA** – Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:00*

***First Stages** – 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 8:00 - 9:00*

***For Youth, By Youth** – Wednesdays, 6:30 - 8:00*

***Hate Crimes Task Force** – Call (916) 442-0185*

***LambdaBreaking Barriers Youth Group** – Fridays, 8:00 - 9:30*

***Legal Referral Clinic** – Mondays, 5:30 - 9:00*

***Men's Coming Out Group** – Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30*

***Men's Discussion Group** – Mondays, 6:30 - 8:00*

***Survivors of Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault by WEAVE**– Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:00*

***Women's Coming Out Group** – Sundays, 6:00 - 7:30*

***Womyn On Wednesdays** – Wednesdays, 7:00 - 9:00*

GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS MEETING AT THE CENTER

***Capitol Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association** – specific Sundays, 1:00 - 3:00, www.ccgra.org*

***Lambda Letters Project** – specific Saturdays, 11:00 - 5:00, www.lambdaletters.org*

***Over the Rainbow Group of NA** – Mondays, 8:00 - 9:00, www.na.org*

***Sacramento Gender Association** – 2nd Saturday of the month, 6:30 - 9:00, www.transgender.org/sga*

***Sacramento Valley Leathermen** – 3rd Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00, www.svlclub.org*

***Sacramento Valley Veterans** – 1st Wednesday of month, 7:00 - 8:00, www.sacvalleyveterans.com*

***SACWN** – 1st Thursdays, 7:00 - 9:00*

***Sexual Compulsives Anonymous** – Sundays, 5:00 - 6:30, www.sca-recovery.org*

***Tri-Ess (Cross Dressers)**– 3rd Saturdays, 7:00 - 9:00, www.tri-ess.org*

***Weight Watchers** – Tuesdays, 5:00 - 5:45, Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30, Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:00, www.weightwatchers.com*

Call the Lambda Community Center for more details, (916) 442-0185, or check out the Calendar on our website.

Caitlin's Story

By Caitlin Bourne Age 18

"Mommy?"

"Yes, Honey."

"I love you."

For the past two years, I have started countless conversations this way. I have always known my mother is an open-minded person, but for some reason it has been so difficult to come out to her. She is the one person in the world who has always loved me and I didn't want to jeopardize that love. She has been a friend, a confidant, and a bit of a therapist for me so this should have been easy. What could she really say? Would she really love me any less? It is a rather ridiculous thought.

I finally decided to take the plunge and come out to my mother a few weeks ago. She was sick; throwing up! I thought, "Hey! This is as good a time as ever!" I started the conversation as I have many times before. "Mommy?" "Yes, Honey." (She got sick again just then.) "Would you still love me if I was gay?"

As I waited for the response, I thought, "I can't believe I actually just said that!" Soon it came. "I would love you no matter what you are. Do you think you're gay? "Yes, Mom." Just like that it was over. I spent the rest of the day taking care of her as I always do when she's sick.

I neglected to tell her that I am a facilitator-in-training for the Breaking Barriers/Lambda Youth Group. I began going about seven months ago, but I have been telling her I go to True Love Café with one of my best friends, A.J. I decided to tell her about two weeks ago when I found out that I have won the Lambda Youth Community Spirit Award. I thought she might like to go. When I told her about the youth group, she was not upset. She completely understood why I had lied to her. In fact, she attended the Lambda Awards ceremony with my aunt and uncle.

I could not have asked for a better coming out experience. I have felt nothing but compassion from my mother and the rest of my family, which I know, will continue. I can only hope that other teenagers have the same loving and compassionate experiences from their parents when they decide to come out.

Lambda Hires New Volunteer Coordinator

The Lambda Community Center is proud to announce that we have hired Jason R. Kirkland as our new Volunteer Coordinator. We can do this thanks to the generosity of Lambda Board member Terry Sidie and FACES, Inc. for underwriting Jason's salary for the first year. Thanks to Terry's timely and important gift, we have firmed up the most important part of the Lambda Community Center, our volunteers.

Jason has been a very active volunteer at the Center for the last year. He was promoted to being our unpaid volunteer coordinator last January. In recognition of the great work he has done in that position, the Lambda Community Fund's Board agreed with the recommendation of our Executive Director, Bob Brodie, that we hire him officially.

Jason's position is responsible for recruiting, screening, and placing the many volunteers who come through our doors. To support these roles, he will also create and facilitate training programs and manuals, and organize monthly volunteer meetings and special appreciation events.

If you have been thinking that you should do a little something to contribute to the community, give Jason a call at 442-0185, ext. 103 or email him at jason@lambdasac.org. We have many so many activities to choose from. You can work on the Lambda Freedom Fair, distribute the *Lambda Link*, help keep the website updated, or join the building, finance, fundraising, or community outreach committees. We can use you!

Diversity Matters!

The Lambda Community Fund has chosen a new motto to describe who we are and who we serve: ***Diversity Matters!*** There is no other group of people anywhere on earth who are diverse as us. The Board of Directors believes that all parts of our wide and diverse community should feel safe, strong, and proud anytime they come to the Lambda Community Center or attend a Lambda-supported function.

Lambda Community Center
1927 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-4108

Located at the corner of L and 20th streets in the heart of "Lavender Heights."

Hours:
Mon-Fri: noon – 9pm
Sat: 9am – 9 pm
Sun: 10am – 6pm

Phone:
(916) 442-0185

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94-2502229

Robert S. Brodie
Executive Director
execdir@lambdasac.org
ext. 101

Jason R. Kirkland
Volunteer Coordinator
jason@lambdasac.org
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Lambda Announces Internship Program

We are proud to announce the formation of an internship program for college students here at the Lambda Community Fund. This will be a great opportunity for students to be of service to our LGBT community.

The details are still being put together, but we plan to have some positions available for the coming Summer session and a full slate of openings for the Fall. The amount of hours worked can be tailored to the student's needs, however, no stipend is being offered.

Our internships will give students the opportunity to directly participate in Lambda functions and activities in a meaningful way. Students will be able to do original work on important assignments.

Some of the areas of study we are looking at are accounting, business, psychology, finance, human resources, fundraising, computers, web programming, social work, counseling, journalism, and event planning. Also, if a student has a great concept, we are very interested in hearing it.

Generally, 4-year schools require that a student has declared a major and taken some core classes. Sacramento's different community college districts each have their own requirements. However, if a student cannot qualify, we can offer a non-credit internship to someone with desire.

For more information, interested students can contact Bill Snyder at (916) 442-0185 ext. 105 or can email him at bills@lambdasac.org. Students should talk to their advisor about their school's requirements.

Volunteer Recognition Program

We have started a monthly Volunteer Recognition and Training program at the Center. Each month our volunteers will attend a meeting where they will receive necessary training to help keep the Center running effectively. We will also choose a Volunteer of the Month who, through their example, makes the Center a stronger place for the entire LGBT community.

Volunteers of the Lambda Community Center 5/17/2004

Every three months, we'll honor the Volunteer of the Quarter. This will be someone who shows they understand the five important ingredients of being a Center volunteer. We call it **DATES**: **D**edication to the Center and LGBT community; **A**ttendance when scheduled; **T**eamwork, the underlying framework of the Center; **E**ffective Communication, the ability to communicate with those we serve and the staff; and **S**haring, the ability to share a part of yourself to help others.

Amy Kirkland

Our Volunteer of the First Quarter of 2004 is Amy Kirkland, who has not missed a shift at the Center since first volunteering in Nov. 2003.

Scott Anthony

Scott Anthony is our Volunteer of the Month for May 2004.

LAMBDA CENTER **Lambda Link**

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Lambda Link is published bi-monthly. If you would like to receive future copies of ***Lambda Link*** mailed to you, please add yourself to our mailing list on our website or by calling (916) 325-1842, option 4.

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